

## **SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Minutes**

**October 20, 2016**

### **Welcome and Introductions**

At 9:42 Enrique Zaldivar called the meeting to order. Introductions followed.

### **1) Comments From Members of the Public on Items Not on the Agenda and Public Testimony on All Agenda Items**

#### **Public Comment:**

Andy Shrader commented in support of the Westwood greenway project. He thanked the Board and Commission for recommending the vitally important project.

Walter Lamb thanked the Board for changing the public comment period format. He informed the board that the Ballona Land Trust filed a second lawsuit against the Commission. The suit has not yet been served.

David Coupe, SMBRC legal counsel, commented in response that the Commission has retained legal counsel. Legal counsel has made progress in narrowing and refining the issues and will soon be in a position to evaluate what the Trust specifically wants from the commission. They will be holding a closed session at the Executive Committee meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup> regarding the lawsuit.

Michael Blum commented regarding two requests previously brought before the Board. The first was the nomination of iconic Malibu surfing area to the register of historic places. He requested that staff develop a resolution to support the project. He also commented regarding consistent beach erosion in Malibu from the Malibu lagoon restoration project. He requested that the Board reconvene to review the management of the lagoon area.

Michael Omary commented to introduce the board to a new technology biological filter that uses ion exchange and absorption into the biomass. The technology can retrofit existing storm water drains.

David Wendell commented in support of the Westwood greenway project and thanked the Board for consideration of the project.

Sean McMillen commented in support of the Westwood greenway project. He expressed his gratitude to the SMBRC for all their work on clean water issues.

Kathy Knight commented regarding conflict of interest between SMBRC and TBF- she believes there should be two separate executive directors for The Bay Foundation and the SMBRC.

### **2) Informational Items**

#### **a. Order of the agenda**

The order of the agenda was not changed.

#### **b. Report from the Chair**

Enrique Zaldivar reported on the Executive Committee meeting. The Executive Committee discussed Proposition 84 project recommendations and changing the public comment format, which was enacted for the first time at this meeting.

**c. Report of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

Mas Dojiri presented two major tasks the TAC has been tackling since the last GB meeting. The first was the Bay Restoration Plan Climate Change Vulnerability Analysis. On June 30<sup>th</sup> the TAC held a half day workshop to give staff feedback on the Vulnerability Analysis process, and on August 30<sup>th</sup> the TAC met again to discuss risk prioritization and analysis for the project. The second item was reviewing Prop 84 funding project proposals. The TAC scored and ranked projects, then came to a consensus and recommended projects to SMBRC staff. SMBRC staff had a slightly different ranking, so the two groups came to a consensus for a final ranking.

**d. Reports from the Executive Director and Staff**

Tom Ford highlighted recent organizational accomplishments. He introduced the Santa Monica Beach Dune Restoration pilot project, and discussed methods and progress for the Ballona Iceplant Removal Project. The LA MPA collaborative, which The Bay Foundation (TBF) is a member of, released a bilingual Guide to Fishing and MPAs. TBF's Clean Bay Certified Restaurant program added two new cities to the program, and received a SEED award from the South Bay Business Coalition for the program. The new Kelp Forest Hydrodynamics Project will examine how waves and sediment move through a kelp forest to determine the effect of kelp on physical, biological, and chemical factors. The SMBNEP received competitive EPA funds to do targeted ocean acidification work, including installing a pCO<sub>2</sub> sensor off of Palos Verdes to look at ocean acidification and temperature data. TBF has finished construction of an abalone facility on Terminal Island for restoration purposes and is also starting a project to aid the aquaculture industry in growing green abalone as a viable aquaculture species. TBF's kelp forest restoration project has now cleared 27 acres of urchin barren. TBF's 2015 annual report was released, and is available on the website. The Bay Restoration Plan Climate Change Vulnerability Analysis will inform the upcoming update on the Bay Restoration Plan based on the risks identified for climate changes stressors. SMBNEP will present the analysis to the national group of 27 NEPs at the annual national NEP conference.

Laurie Newman reported on TBF Board activities. The next TBF Board meeting will take place at the end of November or beginning of December. TBF had its second annual large fundraiser event, Coastal Connections, at the Santa Monica Pier. The event raised over \$13,000.

Lauren Pizer Mains asked about the method of choosing new board members to the TBF board. Laurie responded that any person nominated by the TBF Board may be elected by the board. Lauren suggested that we put a notice out to the public about board vacancies.

Molly Martin introduced herself as the US EPA project officer for the SMBNEP. She commented that there may be some changes in the structure in the future. The EPA has

guidelines of what should be contained in the Bay Restoration Plan update, which include the structure of governance and how that structure meets the needs of the organization. EPA and TBF are aiming to complete the BRP update by 2019. EPA region 9 will be fully vested in this process moving forward. The EPA sees the leadership of SMBRC and TBF as all under the umbrella of the SMBNEP.

Kevin McKeown asked what the process would be for getting information from one body to the other if there are not board members on both the TBF and SMBRC boards.

Molly responded that this would be specified within a chapter of the BRP plan update and that the Boards will have to work to increase communication between the groups. SMBNEP is unique in that there is a state commission leading it as well as other entities.

Dennis Washburn commented that there should be a great level of tolerance for the level of variability we must deal with in the organization. There are things we can learn from other NEPs who have complex structures. Our complex region should also have a larger budget.

### **3) Governing Board Business**

#### **a. Consideration of approval of June 16, 2016 meeting minutes**

The minutes were approved as amended. (M: Caspary, S: Diamond)

#### **b. Consideration of Recommendation of Approval of Proposition 84 Grant Awards**

Guangyu Wang and Jack Topel gave a presentation about the recommendations for Proposition 84 funding. Recommended projects totalled \$9 million in funding and consisted of: Culver Blvd Realignment and Stormwater Infiltration/ Retention Project, Westwood Neighborhood Greenway Project, Ladera Park Water Quality Enhancement Project, Gates Canyon Park Project, and Santa Monica Bay Catch Basin Insert Project.

Kevin McKeown commented that many of the projects are being funded at less than the requested amount and asked if the projects would be scaled back as a result, or if the proponents would find additional funds. Jack Topel responded that all projects have indicated they will be able to complete the projects with the funds given and/or find additional funding.

Sam Schuchat commented that all projects will require maintenance and monitoring and asked if there was maintenance funding for the life of the projects. John Bishop responded that the grant agreements include a clause about continuing maintenance, generally for a 20 year period.

Tim Pershing asked how the TAC would deal with monitoring and data collection consistency for these projects. Guangyu Wang responded that they have developed guidelines for monitoring and data collection, and are requiring grant recipients to follow these guidelines.

Charles Caspary wanted to clarify that the SMBRC simply makes recommendations to the State Water Quality Control Board for funding, so that no members of the public misinterpret the Governing Board's level of authority.

Public Comment:

Charles Herbertson from Culver City commented in support of the Culver Blvd Realignment and Stormwater Infiltration/ Retention Project.

Jonathan Weiss commented in support of the Westwood Neighborhood Greenway project.

Sara Hayes commented in support of the Westwood Neighborhood Greenway project.

Craig Cadwallader thanked the board for supporting all of the Proposition 84 funded projects, adding that they are critical to maintain healthy beaches and oceans.

David Coupe clarified that the board is voting on a recommendation to the SWRCB for funding, and not actually funding the projects.

Dennis Washburn recommended including the discussion here today in a press release.

Recommendation of Approval of Proposition 84 grant awards was approved. (M: Washburn, S: Schuchat, Abst: Hildebrand).

**c. Approval of FY 2016-2017 Work Plan**

Tom Ford explained that staff has revised the work plan for a second time and is bringing it back to the Board for approval. The programs and projects have not changed, but additional sections have been added.

Public Comments:

Walter Lamb commented that the work plan is being approved after the fact because the grant funding has already been approved. He said that the Work Plan is dated October 2016 and it still says that the Ballona EIR will be released in Summer 2016. The Work Plan says that TBF sits on the Wetland Recovery Project group, and that this is not true, Karina Johnston attends as a member of the SMBRC, and only agencies sit on this board.

Kevin McKeown asked about the new staffing section of the Work Plan. This was not in the previous version.

Molly Martin responded that she requested this be added.

A motion was introduced to approve the Work Plan with small revisions mentioned (editing the date of the EIR publishing).

The Work Plan was unanimously approved. (M: Caspary, S: Diamond)

**d. Member Comment**

Kevin McKeown asked what the SMBRC's role would be in investigating the Malibu lagoon erosion mentioned in a public comment. Tom Ford responded that he would discuss this with Michael Blum who made the comment.

**e. Closed session**

No closed session was held.

At 11:50 the meeting was adjourned without objection.

**Attendance**

***Voting Members of the Governing Board:***

Johnathan Bishop, California Environmental Protection Agency  
Charles Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
Fran Diamond, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles  
Philip Friess, LA County Sanitation District  
Robert Godfrey, At-Large Member (Marina del Rey Anglers)  
Suzanne Goode, California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Gloria Gray, At-Large Member (West Basin Municipal Water District)  
Gary Hildebrand, LA County Department of Public Works  
Rita Kampalath, Public Member/Environmental, Heal the Bay  
Kevin McKeown, Santa Monica/ WSCCOG  
Dan Murphy, LA County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division  
John Rea, South Bay Cities (Palos Verdes Estates)  
Sam Schuchat, California State Coastal Conservancy  
Rorie Skei, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Wing Tam, LA City Bureau of Sanitation  
Enrique Zaldivar, SMBRC Chair, LA City Bureau of Sanitation  
Dennis Washburn, At-large member (Santa Monica Mountains RCD)  
Debbie Dyer-Harris, Councilmember, Los Angeles City Council District 11  
Timothy Lippman, Office of Sheila Kuehl, Supervisor, 3<sup>rd</sup> District, County of Los Angeles

***Non-Voting Members of the Governing Board:***

Debbie Dyer-Harris, Councilmember, Los Angeles City Council District 11  
Timothy Lippman, Office of Sheila Kuehl, Supervisor, 3<sup>rd</sup> District, County of Los Angeles  
Laurie Newman, President, The Bay Foundation  
Molly Martin, US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9  
Timothy Pershing, Assembly Member Richard Bloom, 50<sup>th</sup> District  
Lauren Pizer Mains, State Senator Ben Allen, 26<sup>th</sup> District

***SMB NEP Staff present:***

Heather Burdick  
David Coupe, SWRCB Legal Counsel  
Julie Du Brow  
Tom Ford  
Victoria Gambale  
Ariadne Reynolds  
Jack Topel  
Marcelo Villagomez  
Guangyu Wang

***Other Attendees, including other Watershed Advisory Council Members:***

Sean McMillan, Westwood Greenway Project  
Sarah Hays, Westwood Greenway Project  
Kim Braun, City of Culver City  
Jonathan Weiss, Westwood Greenway Project  
Michael Blum, Malibu Surfing Association  
Michael Omary, APD Clean Water Technologies  
Kathy Knight, Ballona Ecosystem Education Project  
Charles Herbertson, City of Culver City  
Kaden Young, City of Culver City  
Michelle Kim, JHLA (RPV)  
Michelle Reed, LA County DWP  
Giles Coon, LA County DWP  
Charles Eder, City of Rancho Palos Verdes  
Ken Rukarina, City of Palos Verdes Estates  
Tonya Durrell, LA County Dept of Sanitation  
Ryan Thiha, LA County Dept of Sanitation  
Joe Linn, LA County Dept of Sanitation  
Craig Cadwallader, Surfrider South Bay  
Meghan Sahli-Wells, Culver City Councilmember, Westside COG  
E.J. Caldwell, West Basin Municipal Water District  
Domingo Drosco, LA City Sanitation  
Andy Shrader, Office of LA City Councilmember Koretz  
Suzanne Fuentes, City of El Segundo  
Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust